

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-6, 15, 16, and 18-21 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 5, 6, 15, 20, and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4-6, 15, 20 and 21 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 3, 4, 16, 17, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has effectively rewritten Claim 3 in independent form by incorporating the feature recited in Claim 3 into Claim 1. That same feature has also been incorporated into Claims 5 and 6, and therefore Applicant submits that Claims 1, 5, and 6 (and dependent Claim 4) are all allowable. In addition, Applicant has effectively rewritten Claim 17 in independent form by incorporating the feature recited in Claim 17 into Claim 15. That feature has also been incorporated into Claims 20 and 21. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 15, 20, and 21 (and dependent Claims 16, 18, and 19) are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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